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A N

Hiſtorical Character

Of the HONOURABLE

GEORGE BAILLIE, Eſq;

(By *G. C.* M. D. and F. R. S.)

SUNDAY, *Auguſt* the 6th 1738, died at *Oxford*, in the Seventy-fifth Year of his Age, the *Honourable* GEORGE BAILLIE, of JERVISEWOOD, *Eſq*; deſcended from an ancient and virtuous Family in *North Britain*. He was a *Gentleman*, who, in this corrupt Age, did *Honour* to human Nature, and was a *great* Inſtance (according to my beſt Obſervation) of the *Efficacy*, of the *Grace*, *Wiſdom* and *Power* of the ALMIGHTY.

AT one and the ſame time he was a moſt *zealous Patriot*, a very *able Stateſman*, and the moſt *perfect Chriſtian*, that this, or any Age has produced; *Piety*, *Charity*, *Juſtice* and *Truth*, being the *Baſis* of all his private *Reſolves*, and *public Tranſactions*. He conſider'd Mankind as his *Family*, and each Individual as his *Child*, and as the Image of his *Heaven-*

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ly Father. He continued ſteadily in his own Church and Principles, when at home, and in his Country; diſcouraging *Indifference* and *Wavering* in the *external*, as well as *internal* Life of Religion, but without *Rigidneſs* and *Narrowneſs of Soul*; believing *Charity* to be one of the *Cardinal* Virtues, and a guarded Freedom, eſſential to our unlapſed and recovered Natures. I had the Honour of an intimate Acquaintance with him for the laſt *thirty Years of his Life*. I have *ſtudied* him in all the various *Scenes* he paſſed through; in Poſts of great *Honour*, in the *Troubles of private Life*, in *Health* and in *Sickneſs*, in *Buſineſs* and *Retirement*; and with great *Truth* I can affirm, that in all theſe ſeveral *Scenes*, I never knew his Superior in *ſolid Virtue* and *juſt Thinking*.

His *Courage* was *undaunted*, and his *Patience immoveable*; his *Piety unfeigned*, and his *Truth* exact to the greateſt *Preciſion*. Having been bred in the *School of Affliction*, his Compaſſion was never denied to thoſe who were in *Diſtreſs*, even by their own *Indiſcretion*. He ſpent the laſt twelve Years of his Life in *conſtant Meditation*, *Contemplation*, and *Prayer*. It was truly *a Life hid with Chriſt in God*. He paſſed through ſeveral States of *Purification* and *ſevere Trial*, unknown to common and unexperienced *Chriſtians*.

His Father (a few Hours before his Life muſt have been ended by the Hardſhips of his Confinement)

ment) was, for his Love to his Religion and Country, moſt barbarouſly put to Death by the Severity of the then *Adminiſtration*, and the Madneſs of the Times; whereby his Eſtate was forfeited, and his Son obliged to retire into *Holland*.

COMING into *England* with the Prince of *Orange*, he narrowly eſcap'd periſhing at *Sea*; on which account, all his Life after, he kept a rigorous *Faſt* once every Week, ſpending the whole Day in *Meditation*, *Prayer* and *Praiſes* to his *Deliverer*. During all the Times of his great and arduous *Employments*, he never failed Morning and Night to retire a conſiderable time to his Cloſet, and proſtrate himſelf before his *Maker*. His Faith and Truſt, that the *Children of the Righteous ſhould never want Bread*, was ſo firm, that in all his Difficulties and Misfortunes, he never ſaved any thing for fear of *Want* (when the *Expence* was *charitable*, *neceſſary*, or *decent*); and in his Proſperity he never ſquandered away any thing *oſtentatiouſly* or *uſeleſly*.

HIS private *Charities* were as *great* and *extenſive* as they were *ſecret* and *conſtant*. In ſhort, in his *Rank* and *Order*, under the preſent *Lapſe* of human Nature, and the *flagrant* Corruption of this *Age* and *Nation*, he was in every thing a moſt *perfect Example* to his *Family*, to his *Friends*, and to his *Country*.

BATH, Aug. 12, 1738.

To Dr. *CHEYNE* on his *Hiſtorical Character* of the Hon. *GEORGE BAILLIE* Eſq;.

LET venal *Pens in* trifling *Numbers flow,*
And undeſerved Praiſe on Peers *beſtow*;
Thy Panegyricks *want no Help of* Art,
Spontaneous Off'rings of an honeſt Heart:
Oh, happy BAILLIE! bleſt with Length of Days;
Well may thy Happineſs our Envy *raiſe:*
Happy in Life, *more happy in thy* End,
Moſt happy after Death, in ſuch a Friend,
Thy Vertues *and thy* Worth *to recommend.*